

June 17, 2003

Scott Whitney, Compliance Officer  
Drinking Water Program  
Division of Health Engineering  
State House Station 11  
Augusta, ME 04333-11

RE: Department of Human Services Request for  
Consultation Regarding Transport of Bulk Water by  
Nestle Waters NA - Hollis  
Docket No 2003-277

Dear Mr. Whitney:

On April 16, 2003, you requested Commission review of the application of Nestle Waters NA - Hollis for renewal of its authorization, pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §2660-A(3), to transport water from Poland Spring Annex, also called "Garden Spring," for commercial purposes. The spring is located on Ricker Hill in the town of Poland. The statute requires that your office consult with the PUC and other agencies before authorizing commercial transport of water beyond the municipality in which it occurs naturally. This letter constitutes the PUC's assessment of whether Nestle Waters NA – Hollis proposal would "constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare" in regard to its effect on any public water utility.

Our Staff reviewed the Nestle Waters NA - Hollis proposal in order to determine whether the proposed withdrawal of water would have any adverse effect on the public water utilities in the area. The Auburn, Gray, and Oxford Water Districts were contacted along with the Town of Mechanic Falls Water Department. The review indicates that the proposed withdrawals should not adversely affect these water utilities' water sources or watersheds.

It is our opinion that transport of water from Poland Spring Annex, as proposed by Nestle Waters NA - Hollis, will not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The public utility component of the waiver process should be reviewed, each time the authorization is renewed, to ensure circumstances have not changed.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have questions regarding the public water utility impact of the Nestle Waters NA - Hollis application.

Sincerely,

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

cc: Raymond Hammond  
Dana Lee - Mechanic Falls Water Dept.  
David MacDonald - Oxford Water District  
Gordon Johnson - Auburn Water District  
James Foster - Gray Water District